

VIA: AIR POST

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TO : Chief of Station

DATE: 16 January 1948

FROM : []

XAAZ-3610

SUBJECT : General - RUSSIAN
Specific - GUDRUN INGEBORG KOHLER ENGELSING, and others.

2. For your further information and assistance in connection with this case, there is set out below information furnished us by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under date of January 5, 1948, concerning HERBERT ENGELSING and GUDRUN INGEBORG KOHLER ENGELSING, and a number of other individuals.

3. You will note that the information set out below also includes the results of interviews conducted with Ingeborg ENGELSING-KOHLER by the FBI.

The files of the Central Office, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Philadelphia, reveal that GUDRUN INGEBORG KOHLER ENGELSING was born on June 19, 1916 at Berlin, Germany and entered the United States at New York City on April 7, 1947, aboard the SS GRIPSHOLM, for permanent residence. She was in possession of German Quota Immigration Visa #16316 issued on January 9, 1947 by the American Consulate at Zurich, Switzerland.

Information appearing on this application for visa indicated that she resided in Berlin, Germany, from 1930 to 1935; in Heesens Field, Great Britain from 1935 to 1936; in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1936 to 1937; in Berlin from 1937 to 1943; in Konstanz, Germany, from 1944 to 1946, and in June 1946, resided in Switzerland. She stated her husband, HERBERT ENGELSING was born in Overath, Germany, and presently resides in Konstanz, Germany. Their son, THOMAS, was born on August 18, 1938 in Berlin, Germany, and their daughter, CATHERINE, was born on September 9, 1941 in Germany, and both reside at Meggie, Switzerland. Her parents, ARTHUR and ELSE KOLLER, are presently living at 115 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley 5, California, and INGEBOURG upon entering the United States indicated her intention to join them at that address.

GUDRUN INGEBORG KOHLER ENGELSING, nee KOHLER, aka, INGEBOURG ENGELSING was registered as an alien on November 6, 1946 by the American Consul at Zurich, Switzerland receiving Alien Registration #A664696. A notation appears on her visa indicating that a Certificate of Arrival was applied for on July 15, 1947, indicating that she is applying for her final naturalization papers.

ENGELSING, HERBERT DR.

**FILE CLASSIFICATION
CHANGE REQUEST**

ABSTRACT	INDEX
DATE 16 Jan 48	

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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 302B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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Mrs. Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler was interviewed on October 27, 29, and 30, 1947, at her home, 115 Hillcrest Road, Berkeley, California. She furnished the following information:

BACKGROUND AND PERSONAL HISTORY

She was born June 19, 1916, at Berlin, Germany. Her father is Arthur Kohler, formerly a judge of the German Courts, and at one time a member of the Anglo-German Mixed Arbitral Tribunal in London, England. Her mother is Else Cahn of Jewish descent and from the family of bankers, Cahn-Speyer-Ellissen. Her parents left Germany prior to the war and have resided in Berkeley, California, since 1939, and are now naturalized U. S. citizens. She has a sister, Mrs. Karl W. Hilde, also a naturalized U. S. citizen, residing at 1880 Boothill Boulevard, Altadena, California.

Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler was educated in England, Norway, Italy, and Switzerland, completing her education in 1935. She was prohibited from attending school in Germany under the Nazi regime because of her part Jewish lineage. In 1937, she married Herbert Wilhelm Engelsing in London, England. He is non-Jewish and under German law, the marriage was not permitted in Germany; hence, they were married secretly in England. Herbert Engelsing was born September 2, 1904, at Overath, near Cologne, Germany. He is an attorney and a jurist and was employed until 1934 as a judge in the German courts. When the Nazi Party gained control of the courts, according to Mrs. Engelsing, he felt that there was no longer justice in Germany and left, accepting a position with the motion picture corporation, Tobis (Tonbild Syndikat). This company had branches in Germany, Italy, and France. During the war, the Germans took over the branches in France and Italy. Herbert Engelsing continued as an executive of this corporation until the defeat of Germany in 1945. Thereafter, he moved to Konstanz, Germany, in the French occupation zone, and was one of two attorneys admitted to practice before the French military courts. Ingeborg Engelsing Kohler resided in Berlin with her husband at Bottinstrasse 2B, Berlin, until 1942. After 1943 she changed her residence numerous times to avoid being drafted for compulsory military service in the German women's work unit. She lived for a short time in a home about thirty miles from Berlin, followed by short residences at Radinow, a small town on the Baltic Sea, Turpitz, Freiburg, and finally, with the aid of a former student of her grandfather, she obtained a home in Konstanz, Germany, in 1944, residing at Aeschernweg 8. Her husband joined her there in 1945. The Engelsings have two children, Thomas, born August 28, 1938, at Berlin, and Catherine, born September 9, 1941, at Berlin.

Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler and her husband were active during the war in the anti-Nazi underground, their activities consisting in general of collecting and distributing food and clothing to Jews and persons without passports, ration cards, and other identification papers. They were also very friendly with and furnished information to Harro Schulze-Wechsungen and his wife, who were executed in Berlin in 1942 for underground activities. Herbert Engelsing attempted to interfere with the Gestapo on behalf of Schulze-Wechsungen after his arrest, but unsuccessfully.

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Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler had applied for a visa to enter the United States in 1939, but due to the war, was prevented from leaving Germany. She re-applied for a U. S. visa and on January 1, 1947, was issued a quota visa by the U. S. Consulate-General at Zurich, Switzerland. She left Switzerland in March, 1947, and entered the United States at New York City, April 7, 1947, aboard the SS CRIPSHOLM. She has applied for U. S. citizenship. Herbert Engelsing has written her that he has received a visa for entering the United States and expects to arrive in Berkeley, California, early in December, 1947. He is now residing at either Konstanz, Germany, or in Zurich, Switzerland.

ASSOCIATION WITH HARRO SCHULZE-BOYSEN

Upon her arrival in New York City, Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler was met by one Paul A. Kempner, formerly a prominent German banker connected with the Mendelssohn firm in Germany. Kempner presented her with a copy of a book entitled "Germany's Underground," by Allen Welsh Dulles, Macmillan, 1947. One chapter of this book deals with the Rote Kapelle (Red Orchestra) plot against the Nazis and describes Schulze-Boysen as a Russian espionage agent. Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler stated that it was from reading this book that she first learned that Schulze-Boysen was connected with Russian espionage. Prior to that time, she had considered him as engaged in anti-Nazi political activities, which she described as "aufklaerung" (Enlightenment). Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler first met Harro Schulze-Boysen and his wife, Libertas, informally at a social party given at the home of one Werner von Sinsohn, located at Winklerstrasse Gruenewald, Berlin, in 1938. She described von Sinsohn as an anti-Nazi who was connected with a German-English export company and who had been prominent in Germany prior to Hitler's rise to power. Von Sinsohn reportedly came from a family of the German nobility and his grandfather had crowned the Emperor. She said that von Sinsohn had attended school with Harro Schulze-Boysen at the University of Freiburg in Baden. Von Sinsohn is presently residing in England.

Subsequent to meeting the Schulze-Boysens, the Engelsings became close personal friends of theirs and they met frequently at their respective homes. Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler especially became a very close friend of Mrs. Schulze-Boysen. Concerning Schulze-Boysen, she said that while a student about the time of Hitler's rise to power, Schulze-Boysen had headed a small political group comprised mostly of students and had published a paper called "Die Gegner," (The Opposition). In about 1934, Schulze-Boysen was arrested for those political activities and sent to what she termed a house of correction for a short time. After his release from this imprisonment, he entered the German Air Corps and became a pilot in the Luftwaffe. He later gained the rank of an officer and was assigned to Herman Goering's counter-espionage division of the Air Ministry. In this position, Schulze-Boysen was able to obtain considerable information, and she recalled that he was well-informed, both on German Army plans and also on the strength of the Russian Army, the whereabouts of Russian troops, and the location of Russian war industries. He spoke Russian.

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Between 1938 and 1941, the Engelsings and the Schulze-Boysen met each other every two to three weeks. After 1941, the two families drifted apart because of the fact that Schulze-Boysen and his wife did not get along well together. They saw each other infrequently in 1941 and 1942. They usually met at the Engelsing home, which was located at Fottestraße 2 B, Berlin, or at the Schulze-Boysen home, located on Weststrasse in Schöneberg, Berlin, and later in a section of Berlin known as Westend. During the war, she said she was of the opinion that Schulze-Boysen had continued his anti-Nazi political activities and both she and her husband thought that Schulze-Boysen would be an important political figure after the war. She stated he was active in gathering information and spreading this information by word of mouth among other anti-Nazis for the purpose of combatting the controlled German press. She said she knew of only one paper written by Schulze-Boysen which was a leaflet comparing Napoleon to Hitler and arguing that the German invasion of Russia could not be successful. She said she did not believe that Schulze-Boysen was a Communist but rather, would classify him as an extreme liberal or socialist, and said that she thought he was motivated by his high idealistic viewpoints. She said that both she and her husband furnished Schulze-Boysen with information which they obtained in the course of their own underground activities. She and her husband were very friendly with one Hans Globke, who was a German official connected with the Ministry of the Interior and who is now the Chief of Police at Aachen, Germany. From Globke the Engelsings were able to obtain political information and information concerning the policies of the German Government which they, in turn, turned over to Schulze-Boysen. In addition, Herbert Engelsing, being employed in the moving picture industry in Germany, obtained information from leading actresses and other figures within the industry indicating the anti-Nazi tendency which existed in Berlin at the time. She said that she did not believe her husband knew any more of Schulze-Boysen's true activities at the time than she did. She said she knew that Schulze-Boysen was in touch with one Silone, a well-known Italian author who presently resides in Switzerland and who is an author of a book, the German title of which is "Brot und Wein," (Bread and Wine.)

Through the two Engelsings, Harro Schulze-Boysen was introduced to Helmut Himpel, the Engelsings' family dentist, and Maria Terveil, Himpel's fiancée, and to one Hugo Buschmann, who rented an apartment in a home owned by the Engelsings.

Harro Schulze-Boysen was arrested by the Gestapo in September of 1942, and Gestapo agents followed the activities of Mrs. Schulze-Boysen closely for two or three weeks thereafter until Mrs. Schulze-Boysen attempted to escape and she too was arrested. Schulze-Boysen and his wife and a number of other individuals involved with them in their activities were hanged in Berlin on December 23, 1942. Ingeborg Engelsing-Köhler, stated there was no publicity whatever in the German papers concerning the arrest and execution of any members of Schulze-Boysen's groups; that she learned of Schulze-Boysen's arrest from Schulze-Boysen's father, who is still residing in Germany. His name is E. Schulze, residing at Prinzenhochall Muelheim-Speldorf, Germany (English name). He is a director of the German Film,

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(Schulze-Boysen's Machine Artion Gesellschaft). She spoke to S. Schulze-Boysen's mother and he told her that he then knew all about what Schulze-Boysen had done but it was better that she did not know and he would not tell her. It was from him that she learned of Schulze-Boysen's arrest and execution.

Concerning Mrs. Schulze-Boysen, Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler said that they did not believe that she was involved in the activities of her husband. Her maiden name was Libertas Haas-Heye. She came from a very famous German family; her grandfather was Prince Philip von Hohenberg, who had been a close friend of Kaiser Wilhelm. Mrs. Schulze-Boysen's mother was one of von Hohenberg's eight children. She eloped with an actor named Haas-Heye, whom she later divorced. Mrs. Schulze-Boysen was one of three children, two daughters and a son of this marriage. One daughter Ottora Haas-Heye, is married to Count Douglas of the Swedish nobility, and the son, whose first name Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler did not remember, was employed by the United Press during the war. After the execution of the Schulze-Boysens, Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler learned about other individuals who were also arrested and executed for complicity with them.

ASSOCIATION WITH HUGO BUSCHMANN

The Engelsings moved into the Bottinstrasse 2 B home at Grunewald, Berlin, in April, 1939, and in August of 1939, they rented an apartment in this house to Hugo Buschmann. Buschmann was manager of the Eternit Corporation, Rudow, Berlin, and his wife's maiden name was Margit Tery, who was a Rumanian by birth. The Engelsings and Buschmann became close friends and the Engelsings introduced the Buschmanns to Schulze-Boysen. In connection with his employment with the Eternit Corporation, it was necessary for Buschmann to travel a great deal and Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler knew that he frequently made trips to Yugoslavia, Hungary, and Austria. She said that he also made several trips to Cologne, Germany. Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler had heard that when Mrs. Buschmann was young, she had been a Communist and the Buschmanns had some of Lenin's books in their apartment, and on one occasion, Buschmann had lent one of Lenin's books to Schulze-Boysen, and upon the arrest of Schulze-Boysen, the Gestapo found this book in his possession and implicated Buschmann for this reason. Buschmann, she said, was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943, and imprisoned and questioned for six weeks, but he was later released. After his release, he continued with his employment with the Eternit Corporation until the defeat of Germany. After that time, Buschmann became president of the "Zentral Stelle Verhaendelt Verzollung" in the Russian zone of Berlin, which she described as being one of the bureaux set up by the Russian Army of Occupation engaged in the distribution of food. She said he was employed in this capacity by the Russians for a short time, but apparently became disgusted with the Russians and on one occasion criticized them for being "just like the Nazis," and so resigned from this position and returned to his old job with the Eternit Corporation in Berlin. She believed he is now residing in Berlin in the English zone. She has heard that he had been offered a position with the American military government. She said she did not think that he was a Communist. She knew of no relatives of the Buschmanns, except

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Mrs. Buschmann's mother, who committed suicide while Buschmann was in the custody of the Gestapo in March of 1943. She described Buschmann as being over six feet tall, blonde hair, blue eyes, usually well-dressed, and handsome, about 45 years of age.

ASSOCIATION WITH HELMUTH HIMPFL
and MARIA TERWEIL

Helmuth Himpfl she described as having been the family dentist of the Engelsings for a number of years, and Maria Terweil was his fiancée. The Engelsings introduced Himpfl and Maria Terweil to the Schulze-Boysens at a party at their home on one occasion. She did not know, however, that the Schulze-Boysens and Himpfl continued to associate with each other until late in 1943, when she telephoned Himpfl's secretary and asked for a dental appointment and the secretary replied that Himpfl was out of town. Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler told the secretary that she could not believe this since Himpfl would have told her that he was going, and then the secretary began to cry, so Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler visited her and the secretary told her that Himpfl had been arrested by the Gestapo as had been Maria Terweil. She believed they were later executed at the same time as Schulze-Boysens were. She said she was very surprised to learn that they were implicated with Schulze-Boysen in any way.

ASSOCIATION WITH GUENTHER WEISENBORN

Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler described Guenther Weisenborn as a playwright whom she met originally at a party held at the home of Schulze-Boysen in Berlin during the war, probably about 1940. She said she saw him once or twice thereafter at similar parties and aboard a sail-boat owned by SCHULZE-BOYSEN. She knew very little concerning him except that he is an author born in the German Rhineland; that his wife's name was SCHENABEL. WEISENBORN had lived at one time in South America, returning to Germany shortly before the war began. She met Weisenborn again in Konstanz, Switzerland, in 1946, where he came on a lecture tour. At Konstanz Weisenborn read a play written by him entitled "Die Illegalen," (The Illegal Ones). This play she said was based on the underground activities of the Schulze-Boysen group in Berlin. She said, however, the play did not contain any indication that Schulze-Boysen was involved in Russian espionage although it did mention that some of the group were Communists. She said she has read the play and heard it read by Weisenborn and that the names of the principals involved in the play are fictitious, but at the end of the play Weisenborn has compiled a list of names of the actual individuals involved in the Schulze-Boysen group. She said that Guenther Weisenborn has done research on the activities of Schulze-Boysen and that he told her about some of the individuals whom she was acquainted with who were executed as the result of their activities. Prior to her conversation with Weisenborn, she did not know that these people were involved nor had she known what had happened to them. Weisenborn told her that he himself was arrested by the Gestapo in 1942 and was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for either ten or fifteen years, she could not remember which, but that Weisenborn was released at the time the Allied Armies defeated Hitler. She said she did not

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that Kurt Schumacher was deeply implicated in the activities of the German resistance, he himself would have been executed and the whole of Germany the play to only capitalization of his part in the resistance. She said that Schulze-Boyens told her that he was one of the group of people imprisoned by Schulze-Boyens, and also that he had been one of the plays written by one ADAM KURNDORF. She believed that Schulze-Boyens was still residing in Leontine, Switzerland.

ASSOCIATION WITH KURT SCHUMACHER
and DR. ELFRIDE PAUL

INGEBORG ENGELSING-KOHLER first met KURT SCHUMACHER and Dr. ELFRIDE PAUL at a country estate owned by the family of Prince von BRUNNEN, located at Giesenberg, near Berlin. She stated that one day in 1939, she and her husband drove out to visit Mrs. Schulze-Boyens at the estate, and that she remained there only about an hour. Dr. Elfride Paul and Kurt Schumacher were guests of the Schulze-Boyens at the estate at that time and they, the Engelsing-Kohlers, were introduced to them. Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler did not meet them or hear of them again until she learned that they had been executed for complicity with Schulze-Boyens. Dr. Elfride Paul she described as a woman doctor who was well-known in Berlin, and she said both Kurt Schumacher and Dr. Paul had reputations as Communists. She knew nothing more about them.

ASSOCIATION WITH HORST HEILMAN

She believed that this man's name was actually Wilder Heilmann, and described him as a youth who was very devoted to Schulze-Boyens. She was not acquainted with him but had heard that he had been hung.

ASSOCIATION WITH _____ SCHOLZ

She said that Scholz, whose first name she did not know, was a local estate agent who lived at Burglin. She had last seen him in Danzig, Prussia. Scholz received a prison sentence of from five to ten years.

ASSOCIATION WITH ARVID HARNACK
and MILDRED HARNACK

Arvid Harnack she described as being a professor from a prominent German family whose wife was an American girl named Mildred, both of whom were executed by the German officials. She said she learned of their executions after the war when she read a newspaper article reporting an interview with a German anatomy instructor named Professor STIEVE. In this interview, Professor Stieve stated that after the executions, the bodies of Mrs. Schulze-Boyens, Professor Harnack, and his wife, Mildred Harnack, were sent to Stieve's anatomy laboratory for dissection, but that Professor Stieve had arranged for burial of the bodies without mutilation. She knew nothing further concerning these individuals. (It is to be noted that the book, "Germany's Underground," gives Harnack's first name as OTTO, and identified him as a government councillor.)

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ASSASSINATION ATTEMPTS ON HITLER

The fact that Adolf Hitler was a victim of an attempt on his life in 1944, and that he had been shot, was a matter of public knowledge. It is not known whether the attempt was successful or not. It is also not known whether the attempt was planned by the Germans or by the Allies.

The attempt on Hitler's life was one of the many attempts on his life. It is not known whether the attempt was successful or not. It is also not known whether the attempt was planned by the Germans or by the Allies.

It is to be noted that pages 100 and 101 of Allen Dulles' "Germany's Underground," contained the following information concerning the Rote Kapelle network.

There was, however, one interesting plot in 1943 called Rote Kapelle, or Red Chapel, which originally had a political anti-Nazi theme, and later turned into an organization to provide intelligence for the Red Army.

The leading spirit in Rote Kapelle was a Lieutenant Harald Schulze-Boysen, who had been in politics since 1932, when he formed a small political party called Gegner (Opposition). At first he opposed both Nazis and Communists -- the former he considered too bourgeois, the latter too bureaucratic. He concocted a political farago around the idea that there was no left or right, that political parties did not form a straight line but an incomplete circle, which did not quite close. The Communists and Nazis, of course, were at the unclosed ends of the circle. Schulze-Boysen decided his party would fill that gap and close the circle. He was young, blond, Nordic -- a product of the German Youth movement. Always wearing a black sweater, he went around with revolutionaries, socialists, and the rag-tag and bobtail of the 'lost generation'. He had had trouble with the Nazis early in his career, and only protection in high places -- his father was an admiral and his mother a friend of Goring -- saved him. Finally, his mother, through Goring's influence, found a place for him in the Air Ministry.

The Russians had seen the possibility of using him, and after Hitler attacked them Schulze-Boysen became one of their important agents in Germany. He had leads not only into the Air Ministry but also to the Foreign Office (through a certain Dolf von Schellin) and to other important offices through Government Councillor Otto Harnack. The latter had worked closely with the Soviet Embassy during the days of the Hitler-Stalin pact and at that time had received from the Russians his instructions, radio sets, and secret codes. Rote Kapelle ended when one of the Russian agents, parachuted into Germany, sold out to the Gestapo. Seventy-eight were executed. 'It seems a habit in Europe that spiritual seeds be drenched in blood,' Schulze-Boysen wrote his parents just before his execution. He became a posthumous hero in the Russian zone of Berlin where a play about Rote Kapelle by Gunther Weisenborn, one of the participants who survives, had considerable vogue.

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Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler stated that the name, HANSEN, as given for Schulze-Boysen's first name, is incorrect, and that it is actually HILDE. She also stated that the statement to the effect that Engelsing-Kohler's husband was a friend of Goering was also incorrect, and that she knew that there was no connection whatever between Schulze-Boysen's family and Hermann Goering. She said she had known nothing concerning the radio sets and agreed with what her conversation with Guntther Weisenborn in 1946, and that she knew absolutely nothing of Schulze-Boysen's connections with Russian agents until she had read about it in Allen Walsh Muller's book.

Concerning the statement in the book attributed to Schulze-Boysen as 'It seems a habit in Europe that spiritual seeds be drowned in blood,' which Schulze-Boysen wrote his parents before his execution, she said she knew this was correct because Schulze-Boysen's father showed her that letter when she conversed with him after Schulze-Boysen's execution.

DR. ARTHUR KOHLER

Concerning Dr. Arthur Kohler, who is the father of Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler, available information indicates that he formerly resided at 2514 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, California, Apartment 101. His wife is Elise Kohler. They arrived in the United States in 1939 from England. He reportedly has had a personal fortune in Germany, at that time, of over \$100,000 and had considerable American stockholdings in important firms such as U. S. Steel. He was born in Germany August 14, 1878, and he arrived in the United States May 19, 1939. He presently resides at 115 Millcroft Road, Berkeley, California. He received his United States naturalization papers, Naturalization No. 2007151, in 1945.

MISCELLANEOUS

It is to be pointed out that information was furnished to the effect that Herbert Engelsing was given an appointment as Chief Attorney in the French military courts and the German courts in the French zone and that he worked with Leon Hild, the Commissaire de Service of the French Military Government in Konstanz, Germany. Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler stated that her husband was not employed by the French military courts but that he was a practicing attorney in Konstanz, Switzerland, and that in 1946 he was one of two attorneys admitted to practice before the French courts, but that at the present time, all attorneys are permitted to practice in French courts. She stated he did not work with or for Leon Hild, who is head of the French Police in Konstanz, but that her husband was acquainted with him on a personal basis. Her husband had advised him unofficially on some matters. She said the last address she had for her husband was at Wallgut 3, Konstanz, Germany, which is his office address.

It is noted that in a previous interview with Herbert Engelsing he stated that he was able to provide Schulze-Boysen with information regarding the German military and military affairs and also to identify Goering through the

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acquaintances with favorite actresses of top Nazis, and that he remembered that all information went to Dr. Elfriede Paul, who is still alive in Berlin. Regarding this Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler stated that it was correct on the type of information furnished by the Engelsings to the Schulze-Boysens. She said, however, that no written reports were given, that the information was all turned over to them orally in conversation at their respective homes, and that writing any reports would have been too dangerous. She stated that she was not aware of any activities on the part of Dr. Elfriede Paul, and did not know of the disposition of the information which was furnished by the Engelsings to the Schulze-Boysens. She did not know whether Dr. Paul was still alive in Berlin or not but it was her impression that Dr. Paul had been executed along with the others involved in the group."

3. You are particularly cautioned not to discuss the interrogation of Ingeborg Engelsing-Kohler by the FBI with any British representatives, and no disseminations should be made by you of this information without prior clearance from headquarters.

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cc: Heidelberg
Berlin
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